

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In an Office Action mailed August 3, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-42 as allegedly allegedly obvious under 35 USC 203(a). The Examiner rejected claims 1, 406, 9-12, 15-17, 20-25, 28-30 and 33-42 as allegedly obvious over US 5,675,302 (Howard) in view of US 5,703,599 (Quan). The Examiner rejected claims 2-3, 7-8, 13-14, 18-19, 26-27 and 31-32 as allegedly obvious over Howard and Quan and further in view of US 6,366,185 (Keesey).

Claims 1-11 and 40-42:

Applicants herewith cancel claims 1-11 and 40-42 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter described in those claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as moot.

Claims 12-24 and 25-38:

Applicants herewith amend independent claims 12 and 25 from which dependent claims 13-24 and 26-38 depend. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner=s stated grounds for rejection of claims 12-38 are moot, in view of the amendments.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 12 and 25 are fully supported in the specification as filed, at least at paragraph 0032 ("[t]he first and second mating portions 101, 111 may be . . . flat conductors"). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-24 and 25-38 are not obvious over Howard in view of Quan, at least because neither Howard nor Quan, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of these claims. For example, neither Howard nor Quan disclose, teach

or suggest at least the following claimed combinations of limitations as recited in independent claims 12 and 25 and incorporated into dependent claims 13-24 and 26-39:

“ . . . an offset electrically conductive path . . . ” and “ . . . a component adjacent the second portion of the body having a substantially flat mating portion in contact with and arranged substantially perpendicular to an end of the compressible conductor.” as recited in claim 12;

“ . . . an offset electrically conductive path . . . ” and “ . . . the second mating portion is substantially flat and arranged substantially perpendicular with the compressible conductor. . . . ”

Claim 25.

Howard does not disclose an “offset electrically conductive path”. Quan does not disclose “a component adjacent the second portion of the body having a substantially flat mating portion in contact with and arranged substantially perpendicular to an end of the compressible conductor.” or that “the second mating portion is substantially flat and arranged substantially perpendicular with the compressible conductor.” Moreover, the Examiner has not shown a motivation to combine Howard and Quan to disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 12 or 25.

Quan discusses that, “FIG. 8 shows the offset slabline transition 60 integrated with the coaxial connector 126 and 128. . . . End 128A is for connection to the microstripline within the circulator 106. End 126A is formed with spring fingers to accept the corresponding coaxial center conductor of the T/R module connector.” Moreover, “After assembly, the end 128A of the conductor 62 is connected by a ribbon wire coaxial-to-microstripline transition 108A (FIG. 7) to the microstrip transition conductor 108 defined on the dielectric board 140, and the end of the coaxial conductor 125 is connected

by a ribbon wire transition 110A to the microstrip transition conductor 110 defined on the dielectric board 140.” The Examiner has not established a motivation to combine Howard with Quan to modify this arrangement in view of Howard.

Claim 39:

The Examiner rejected claim 39 as allegedly obvious over Howard in view of Quan. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Howard nor Quan, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of the rejected claims. For example, neither Howard nor Quan, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest at least the following limitations as recited in the claim:

“ . . . an offset electrically conductive path . . . including a first compressible conductor disposed within the internal cavity in the first portion of the dielectric body and a second compressible conductor disposed within the internal cavity in the second portion of the dielectric body.”

Howard does not disclose an “offset electrically conductive path”. Quan does not disclose “a first compressible conductor” and a “second compressible conductor.” Moreover, the Examiner has not shown a motivation to combine Howard and Quan to disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 39.

Quan discusses that, “FIG. 8 shows the offset slabline transition 60 integrated with the coaxial connector 126 and 128. . . . End 128A is for connection to the microstripline within the circulator 106. End 126A is formed with spring fingers to accept the corresponding coaxial center conductor of the T/R module connector.” Moreover, “After assembly, the end 128A of the conductor 62 is connected by a ribbon wire coaxial-to-microstripline transition 108A (FIG. 7) to the microstrip transition conductor 108

defined on the dielectric board 140, and the end of the coaxial conductor 125 is connected by a ribbon wire transition 110A to the microstrip transition conductor 110 defined on the dielectric board 140.” The Examiner has not established a motivation to combine Howard with Quan to modify this arrangement in view of Howard.

New Claims 43-49:

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 43-49 are fully supported in the specification as filed, and are not obvious over any of the cited references, alone or in combination. New claims 43-49 are supported in the specification at least at figure 4 and paragraph 34. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations in the claimed combinations of any of claims 43-49. For example, the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest the following combinations of limitations as recited in claim 43, and incorporated into dependent claims 44-49:

“ . . . an offset electrically conductive path . . . and . . . a first compressible conductor disposed at least partially within the internal cavity in the first portion of the dielectric body, wherein a portion of the first compressible conductor extends through the first opening.”

Claims 43-49 also include additional limitations that further distinguish the claims over the cited art.

Howard does not disclose an “offset electrically conductive path.” Quan does not disclose “a first compressible conductor disposed at least partially within the internal cavity in the first portion of the dielectric body, wherein a portion of the first compressible conductor extends through the first opening.” Quan discusses that, “FIG. 8 shows the offset slabline transition 60 integrated with the coaxial connector 126 and 128. . . . End

128A is for connection to the microstripline within the circulator 106. End 126A is formed with spring fingers to accept the corresponding coaxial center conductor of the T/R module connector.” There is no motivation to combine Quan with Howard to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims.

New Claims 50-54:

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 50-54 are fully supported in the specification as filed, and are not obvious over any of the cited references, alone or in combination. New claims 50-54 are supported in the specification at least at figure 4 and paragraph 0034.

New claims 50-54 are supported in the specification at least at figure 4 and paragraph 34. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations in the claimed combinations of any of claims 50-54. For example, the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest the following combinations of limitations as recited in claim 49, and incorporated into dependent claims 50-54:

“ . . . a first circuit board . . . a second circuit board . . . ” and

“ . . . a connector . . . wherein the connector comprises an offset electrically conductive path . . . wherein the electrically conductive path comprises a first compressible conductor in electrical contact with the first mating portion and a second compressible conductor in electrical contact with the second mating portion.”

All of the claims 50-54 include additional limitations which further distinguish the claims over the cited references. Howard does not disclose an “offset electrically conductive path.” Quan does not disclose a “first circuit board . . . a second circuit board” and a “a first

compressible conductor in contact with the first mating portion and a second compressible conductor in electrical contact with the second mating portion.” There is no motivation to combine Quan with Howard to teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of claims 50-54.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments, withdraw the rejections and allow claims 12-39 and 43-54.

Respectfully submitted,

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